

FBIS 28

CUBA'S RODRIGUEZ SEES RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN 1976

LD260919 TURIN LA STAMPA IN ITALIAN 23 MAR 75 P 9 LD

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ENNIO CARETTO REPORT: "CUBA WITHOUT ENEMIES")

(EXCERPTS) HAVANA, MARCH (DATELINE AS PUBLISHED)--IT IS HARD TO MAKE CUBANS DISCUSS THE USSR. THEY ARE QUITE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT SOVIET FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD DETENTE OR COMMUNISM'S VAGUE "THIRD WORLD VACATION." BUT THEY AVOID ANALYZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS, FROM WHICH THE PRESENT FREEDOM UNDER SUPERVISION EMANATES, OR MAKING CLEAR THEIR OWN ATTITUDES. THERE IS SOME RESERVE ABOUT THE PROCLAMATIONS OF LOYALTY TO THE KREMLIN. FIDEL CASTRO STATES THAT "THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REVOLUTION ARE THE SAME" EVERYWHERE, BUT THAT "ONE COUNTRY'S SOLUTION CANNOT BE DOGMATICALLY COPIED BY OTHERS." CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUES, (MEMBER OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT--FBIS), WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW, MAKES THIS DISTINCTION: "OUR BONDS ARE IDEOLOGICAL, THAT DOES NOT IMPLY A DEPENDENCE. WE DO NOT ACCEPT DIRECTIVES."

THE KREMLIN REMAINS HAVANA'S REFERENCE POINT. BUT THERE IS MORE FREQUENT TALK OF LATIN AMERICAN FRATERNITY, OF THE END OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC BLOCKADE, AND OF POLITICAL DIALOG WITH WASHINGTON. "WE," FIDEL AFFIRMS, "HAVE CLOSED NO DOORS. WE HAVE REMAINED OPEN."

I TALKED ABOUT THE OAS AND THE UNITED STATES WITH CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUES DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, DURING AN INTERVIEW ABOUT THE NEW CUBA. MY HOST IS SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND HAS FILLED PART OF THE VACUUM LEFT AT FIDEL'S SIDE BY "CHE" GUEVARA. "PERHAPS WE TOO HAVE CHANGED," HE SAID. "BUT IT IS LATIN AMERICA WHICH HAS PRIMARILY CHANGED. IT IS PERVADED BY IRREDENTIST FERMENT AND OPPOSE TO YANKEE DOMINATION. IT HAS GAINED AN AWARENESS OF THE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT ITS OWN RESOURCES, OF ITS OWN CULTURAL UNITY AND OF THE EMERGING SOCIAL FORCES. THESE ARE THE ROOTS OF CONVERGENCE AMONG THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, NATIONALISM AND THE MODIFICATION OF STRUCTURES IN A COMMUNIST DIRECTION ARE NOT ONLY AFFECTING PERU BUT ALSO LAOS AND AFRICA."

OUR DISCUSSION MOVED ON TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE "HOLY TERROR" KISSINGER. "I BELIEVE," CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUES COMMENTED IRREVERENTLY, "THAT HE DISCOVERED

IN AMERICA WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE, BUT AS HE DISCOVERED THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. BEFORE, HE WAS SIMPLY A SUPERNEGOTIATOR WHOSE STRATEGIC CONCEPTION WAS LIMITED TO THE NORTH. HE SAW THE WORLD BALANCE AS LYING ALONG THE WASHINGTON-MOSCOW-PEKING-TOKYO AXIS AND IGNORED THE SOUTH, BEING UNABLE TO FORMULATE A POLICY FOR IT." HE STOPPED FOR AN INSTANT. "NATURALLY, IT IS DIFFERENT NOW. KISSINGER IS ONLY INTERESTED IN OIL, AND STILL A LITTLE BIT IN US."

MY HOST WENT ON: "KISSINGER BELIEVED THAT HE HAD AN ALLIANCE OR SATELLITES IN LATIN AMERICA. HE HAS BECOME AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONTINENT IS IN REVOLT. HE CANNOT BLAME US FOR IT. AS FIDEL SAID, THE OAS IS A DECOMPOSING CORPSE, AND MANY COUNTRIES, BEGINNING WITH MEXICO, ARE PROPOSING AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES. I PERSONALLY AM CONVINCED THAT KISSINGER WAS HOPING FOR THE REVOCATION IN QUITO OF THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA AND THAT HE WILL SOON ASK FOR THIS HIMSELF; HE IS LEFT WITH NO OTHER WAY OF SAVING THE ALLIANCE." RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT HAVANA WOULD NEVER, EVEN SO, REENTER THE RANKS OF THE "SATELLITES," SINCE THIS WOULD BE A "BETRAYAL OF THE REVOLUTION." "TIME IS ON OUR SIDE, AND WE CAN WAIT."

I ASKED WHETHER RODRIGUEZ CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBILITY THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON. "YES, IF NOTHING HAPPENS TO PREVENT IT. IN FACT, THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE GROWS STRONGER. I EVEN HAVE A DATE IN MIND -- 1976. WE NO LONGER FEEL THREATENED BY THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE, AND WE DO NOT EVEN MAKE IT A CONDITION THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST CLOSE DOWN GUANTANAMO OR FREE LATIN AMERICA (ITALIAN: O LIBERINO L'AMERICA LATINA -- FBIS) -- THOSE ARE THINGS WE CAN DISCUSS." HE GOT UP TO SEE ME OUT: "I WILL TELL YOU FURTHERMORE THAT, SO IT SEEMS TO ME, 70 PERCENT OF THE U.S. PEOPLE, THE CONGRESS, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCEPT US. BURYING OUR HOSTILITY WILL BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF EVERYONE -- US AND THEM."

28 MAR 0458Z BG/TM